

Application/Control Number: 10/662,635
Art Unit: 2645

Docket No.: 112487CON-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a message to an intended recipient,

the method comprising:

receiving an oral message for [[an]] the intended recipient from a sending party;
~~determining whether a voice mail box associated with the intended recipient is full;~~
~~if the intended recipient's mail box is full, converting the oral message into a text~~
message using speech recognition software;

receiving information regarding the intended recipient from the sending party at the
time the intended recipient provides the oral message; and

transmitting the text message to the intended recipient, wherein the received
information regarding the intended recipient from the sending party is used to obtain a
destination for the transmitting the text message to the intended recipient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the text message further comprises emailing the text message to the recipient.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the text message further comprises faxing the text message to the recipient.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the text message further comprises sending an instant message to the recipient.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of determining a facsimile phone number for the intended recipient by accessing a database.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining an email address for the intended recipient by accessing a database.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying the sender of the oral message of [[the]] a status of transmitting the text message to the intended recipient.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the oral message is received on an integrated services network.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing information related to the transmitted text message.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of billing the intended recipient of the text message.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of billing the sender of the oral message.
13. (Currently amended) An answering service, the answering service being configured to perform performing the steps of:

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receiving an oral message from a sender for a recipient;
~~determining whether a voice mail box associated with the recipient is full;~~
~~if the recipient voice mail box is full;~~
querying the sender with respect to whether a restricted domain is to be used when
converting the oral message into a text message;
converting the oral message into a text message; and
~~audibly playing the text message to the sender for error correction;~~
~~receiving error correction from the recipient, if any; and~~
transmitting the text message to the recipient; and
~~if the recipient voice mail box is not full, delivering the oral message to the recipient's~~
~~voice mail box.~~

14. (Original) The answering service of claim 13, wherein converting the oral message into a text message occurs using speech recognition software.

15. (Currently Amended) The answering service of claim 13, wherein converting the oral message into a text message further comprises:
~~determining whether words exist in the oral message that may not be contained in a general purpose speech recognition software program; and~~
~~if words exist in the oral message that are not likely contained in a general purpose speech recognition software program, applying [a] the restricted domain speech recognition program~~ during the converting of the oral message to the text message when the sender indicates that the restricted domain is to be used.

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16. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether a voice mail box associated with the intended recipient is full,
wherein:
the converting the oral message to the text message is performed when the
determining determines that the voice mail box associated with the intended recipient is full.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the information regarding the
intended recipient from the sending party at the time the intended recipient provides the oral
message further comprises:

receiving an oral message including a destination address of the intended recipient.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the information regarding the
intended recipient from the sending party at the time the intended recipient provides the oral
message further comprises:

entering, by the sender, the information via a keypad.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the information regarding the
intended recipient from the sending party at the time the intended recipient provides the oral
message further comprises:

receiving a name of the intended recipient.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
accessing a database to determine a destination address for the text message based on
the received name.

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21. (New) A system comprising:

means for receiving an oral message for an intended recipient from a sending party;

means for receiving oral information and for determining a delivery address

associated with an intended recipient based on at least a portion of the received oral information;

means for converting the oral message to a text message; and

means for transmitting the text message to an intended recipient.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein:

the means for receiving oral information and for determining a delivery address

associated with an intended recipient based on at least a portion of the received oral information is further configured to receive the delivery address.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the delivery address is an email address.

24. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for receiving oral information and for determining a delivery address associated with an intended recipient based on at least a portion of the received oral information further comprises:

means for determining a delivery address from a name of an intended recipient.